

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03233 281534Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7324
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3233

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: DENKTASH OPPOSITION TO
MAY TALKS

REF: STATE 095678

1. ON AFTERNOON APRIL 28, IN ABSENCE OF FONMIN, WHO IS
OUT OF COUNTRY, I CALLED ON MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG TO CARRY OUT
INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. FOLLOWING BASIC LINE USED BY
COUNSELOR NIMETZ, I EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER INDICATIONS
THAT DENKTASH WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH MID-MAY
MEETING AS WAS AGREED IN VIENNA. I EMPHASIZED SERIOUS
PROBLEM FOR TURKISH CREDIBILITY THIS CREATED IN WASHINGTON,
BOTH IN DEPARTMENT AND ON THE HILL. ELEKDAG INDICATED
THAT JUST A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MY COMING TO HIS
OFFICE, HE HAD RECEIVED AMBASSADOR ESENBEL'S REPORT
OF HIS APRIL 27 CONVERSATION WITH NIMETZ AND THAT THIS
WAS THE FIRST THAT ANYONE IN MFA KNEW OF POSITION
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DENKTASH HAD REPORTEDLY TAKEN. ELEKDAG SAID HE
SHARED USG CONCERN OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND TURKISH
OFFICIALS WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH DENKTASH RIGHT
AWAY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT CONTINUED TO BE GOT
POSITION THAT A MID-MAY MEETING SHOULD BE HELD.

2. GOING OFF THE RECORD, ELEKDAG SAID

THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE MORE OF THE PROBLEM THAT HE HAD OFTEN MENTIONED TO ME ON EARLIER OCCASIONS, NAMELY, DENKTASH'S PROCLIVITY TO EXPLOIT GOVERNMENTAL WEAKNESS IN ANKARA, A WEAKNESS WHICH WAS HEIGHTENED NOW BY THE INAUGURATIONLCVPAIGN. BUT, ELEKDAG ASSURED ME, HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO GET THINGS BACK ON THE TRACK.

3. AT THIS POINT, EKREM GUVENDIREN (MFA CYPRUS-GREECE DIRECTOR, WHO ALSO PRESENT), EXPRESSED VIEW THAT POSSIBLY WHAT HAD TRIGGERED DENKTASH WAS IRRITATION OVER A RECENT GREEK-CYPRITOT INITIATIVE WITTICE&?.5 #VING TO DO WITH THE USE OF THE ORCHARDS IN THE AVLONA AREA. GUVENDIREN SAID THAT EVERY EAR JUST BEFORE THE SECGEN'S REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS MANAGED TO CREATE SOME KIND OF ISSUE WHICIYP AINST THE TURKS IN THE SECGEN'S REPORT AND IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. THE UN MILITARY, GUVENDIREN WENT ON, HAVE IN THE PAST LENT THEMSELVES TO THIS TACTIC; SO MUCH SO THAT THE TURKS HAD OFFICIALLY COMPLAINED ABOUT IT. WHILE THE UN MILITARY ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR'S PLOY, SAID GUVENDIREN, DENKTASH IS UNDOUBTEDLY IRRITATED BY THE FACT THAT SUCH A PRE-SECURITY COUNCIL TACTIC IS ONCE MORE UNDER WAY. RESPONDING, I SAID THAT DENKTASH HAD MADE NO MENTION OF THIS, AS FARREGGESTED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO AGREE TO NEXT MEETING UNTIL HE COULD SEE

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WHAT THE US CONGRESS WAS GOING TO DO ABOUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. THAT, I SAID, WAS A MOST UNFORTUNATE REMARK, IF, IN FACT, DENKTASH HAD SAID IT. BOTH ELEKDAG AND GUVENDIREN SEEMED STARTLED BY THIS REPORT, BUT NEITHER COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON IT. ELEKDAG THEN ENDED THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION BY AGAIN EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOT CONTINUED TO FAVOR A MID-MAY MEETING AND WOULD DO ALL THAT IT COULD TO BRING IT ABOUT.

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